

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: BELIEF AMONG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) LEADERS  
THAT THE SALVADORAN RIGHT IS INCREASING ITS INFLUENCE  
IN THE ARMED FORCES

DOI: LATE JUNE 1983

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release

NOV 1993

[REDACTED]

1. DURING A 16 JUNE 1983 MEETING OF THE FOURTEEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY GENERALS, THE PDC OFFICIALS EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS CONCERN THAT THE SALVADORAN EXTREME RIGHT HAS INCREASED ITS INFLUENCE IN THE ARMED FORCES SINCE THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE. JULIO ((REY)) PRENDES, THE PDC NATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL, AND ROBERTO ((SERRANO)) ALFARO, PDC SECRETARY GENERAL FOR CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT, WERE ESPECIALLY OUTSPOKEN AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT RIGHTIST STRENGTH IN THE ARMED FORCES.

2. THE PDC LEADERS BASED THEIR ASSESSMENT OF INCREASING RIGHTIST INFLUENCE ON A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURED SINCE VIDES TOOK OFFICE. THESE INSTANCES INCLUDE THE RETURN OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARIO DENIS ((MORAN)) TO EL SALVADOR FROM PANAMA AND VIDES' FAILURE TO REMOVE COLONEL ELMER ((GONZALEZ)) ARAUJO FROM HIS POSITION AS COMMANDER OF SONSONATE DEPARTMENT DESPITE STRONG EVIDENCE IMPLICATING HIM IN ATROCITIES AGAINST PEASANTS IN THE DEPARTMENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE PDC LEADERS NOTED THAT VIDES HAD REMOVED RIGHTIST COLONEL ANTONIO FRANCISCO ((MORAN)) FROM THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE TREASURY POLICE ONLY TO REPLACE HIM WITH ANOTHER RIGHTIST, COLONEL NICOLAS ((CARRANZA)). DURING THE 16 JUNE MEETING, SERRANO DESCRIBED CARRANZA AS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA), AND SUGGESTED THAT THE TREASURY POLICE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A STRONGHOLD OF RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS.

3. THE PDC SECRETARY GENERALS ATTENDING THE 16 JUNE MEETING STATED THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE INCREASED RIGHTIST INFLUENCE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PIXC DURING THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS SLATED FOR LATE 1983. REY SUGGESTED THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE VIDES FAVORED AN ARENA VICTORY AND WOULD USE THE ARMED FORCES TO INTIMIDATE PDC ACTIVISTS. THE FOURTEEN SECRETARY GENERALS AGREED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF RIGHTIST STRENGTH IN THE ARMED FORCES AGAIN IN AUGUST, AND, IF RIGHTIST STRENGTH APPEARS TO BE GROWING AT THAT TIME, THEY WILL URGE PDC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) TO PUBLICLY DECLARE THAT THE ARMED FORCES IS JEOPARDIZING FREE ELECTIONS. THE SECRETARY GENERALS MAY ALSO URGE DUARTE TO WITHDRAW THE PDC FROM THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS IF A CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE DEVELOPS AGAINST THE PDC. (REDACTED) COMMENT: IF THE PDC WITHDRAWS FROM THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THE ELECTIONS WILL BE WIDELY REGARDED AS INVALID. MOST PIXC LEADERS BELIEVE THAT A

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CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE OR INTIMIDATION AGAINST THE PIC CAN ONLY  
TAKE PLACE WITH THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE ARMED FORCES).

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